

Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 (ISO) W
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R 211015Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1199

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

US MISSION NATO 2686

S E C R E T ROME 7357

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REFS: A) STATE 115823; B) ROME 7280

1. FOLLOWING GUIDELINES REF A, AMBASSADOR RAISED MATTER OF U.S. INITIATIVE AT DPC ON QUESTION OF NATO RECOGNITION OF SPANISH ROLE IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE WITH DEFENSE MINISTER FORLANI. FORLANI SAID HE WAS AWARE OF PLANNED U.S. INITIATIVES AND HIS MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FROEIGN AFFAIRS WERE IN PROCESS GIVING IT FULL CONSIDERATION.

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2. FORLANI EMPHASIZED THAT ANY KIND OF PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL NATO RECOGNITION OF SPANISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE WAS A MATTER OF GREAT DELICACY. HE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL RISK IN NOT FACING UP TO THE SPANISH PROBLEM. HE WAS TRYING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT BY ENCOURAGING EXCHANGES OF VISITS BETWEEN HIGH RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS. IN FACT, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL MAININI WAS PLANNING A VISIT TO SPAIN VERY SOON. AND THERE WERE FREQUENT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OF ITALY AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN SPAIN. ITALY IS LOOKING AT THE PRESENT SITUATION AND TRYING TO LOOK BEYOND TO THE FUTURE POST-FRANCO SPAIN. BUT EVEN THOUGH THE RISK OF DOING NOTHING WAS GREAT, TRYING TO FIND A WAY OFFICIALLY TO CONVEY APPRECIATION FOR SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, FORLANI REVEALED THAT ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY THEIR SPANISH COLLEAGUES TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF SPAIN'S ROLE IN MUTUAL SECURITY. SUCH RECOGNITION, THEY ARE CONVINCED, WOULD BE USED BY FRANCO AND HIS FOLLOWERS TO STRENGTHEN THE REGIME NOW AND PERPETUATE IT AFTER THE CAUDILLO'S PASSING. VOLPE

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NNN

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